

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07766 01 OF 02 211811Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3463
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 7766

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR VE DR CO PE CI AR BR CU US UR XK SHUM PARM
SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH VENEZUELA FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI

REF: CARACAS 7750

1. DURING A CALL BY DAS SCHNEIDER (ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE POLCOUNS AND MESSRS LISTER AND BRADFORD) ON FONMIN CONSALVI ON AUGUST 18 TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFI'S), CONSALVI WAS RELAXED AND EXPANSIVE. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICAN AND ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC- GUZMAN IS A VERY DARING (AUDAZ) MAN WHO, WITHIN HIS FIRST DAY, TOOK ALL THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CONTROL THE DOMINICAN MILITRY. CONSALVI WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE LEVEL OF US OFICIAL REPRESENTATION AT GUZMAN'S INAUGURATION.

3. COLOMBIA- FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED WITH THE HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION
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AT THE GUZMAN INAUGURATION IN SANTO DOMINGO, HE SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION THE US REPRESENTATION AT BOGOTA FOR TURBAY'S INAUGURATION SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED ADDITIONAL HIGH RANKING PERSONALITIES. CONSALVI SAID HE HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY IN SANTO DOMINGO TO SUGGEST TO ANDREW YOUNG THAT LATTER VISIT TO COLOMBIA TO GET TO KNOW FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO BETTER. LIEVANO, HE SAID, IS A VERY ABLE AND IMPORTANT

FIGURE WHO WILL BE INPORTANT AT THE UNGA.

4. PERU - THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS THERE HAD BEEN MOVING WELL, BUT IT HAS RECENTLY GOTTEN WORSE. THE FACT THAT THE EXTREMISTS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MANAGED TO GET THE SUPPORT OF APRISTAS AND CHIRSTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR TWO SUB-COMMITTEES WHICH WOULD INVESTIGATE THE ARMS PURCHASES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ACITIVITIES OF THE MILITARY WAS "MADNESS." HE SAID THAT A MAN WITH NO WEAPONS CAN HARDLY ORDER ANOTHER MAN WITH A SUB-MACHINE GUN TO EXECUTE HIMSELF. THIS WAS A VERY DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT, SAID CONSALVI, AND MIGHT ENDANGER THE WHOLE PROCESS OF MOVEMENT BACK TO DEMOCRACY. HE SAID ARMANDO VILLANUEVA OF APRA WAS VISITING VENEZUELA AND HAD MET WITH HIM EVENING OF AUGUST 17. CONSALVI SAID HE HAD TOLD VILLANUEVA SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS AND THAT WHEN HE VISITS PERU HE LOOKS FORWARD TO TALKING TO HAYA DE LA TORRE AND OTHER APRISTA LEADERS ABOUT THIS MOST OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT. CONSALVI WAS HIGH IN HIS PRAISE OF VILLANEUEVA SAYING THAT VILLANUEVA HAD BEEN VERY WISE TO STAY OUT OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY BECAUSE HE COULD NOW TALK BOTH TO THE MILITARY AND TO HIS FELLOW APRA PARTY MEMBERS. CONSALVI SAID HE BELIEVED VILLANUEVA COULD BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF PERU.

5. CHILE - THE SITUATION REQUIRES THAT PINOCHET BE MOVED OUT. PINOCHET IS QUINTESSENCE OF HARD LINE "FASCIST"
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GOVERNMENT AND UNTIL PINOCHET LEAVES, MOVEMENT BACK TO DEMOCRACY CANNOT BEGIN. THIE DISQUIETING THING ABOUT PINOCHET IS THAT THE MAN ACTUALLY SEEMS TO ENJOY SOME MEASURE OF POPULAR APPEAL.

6. ARGENTINA - HE SAID GOV BELIEVES VIDELA IS HONEST MAN TRYING TO DO HIS BEST TO MOVE COUNTRY BACK TO DEMOCRACY. FOR THAT REASON, HE SAID PRESIDENT PEREZ INVITED VIDELA TO VENEZUELA AND MADE FUSS OVER HIM. HE HAD IMPRESSION, HE SAID, THAT GOA HAD FINALLY MANAGED TO LIQUIDATE MOST OF SUBVERSIVES AND NOW NEEDED ENCOURAGEMENT TO MOVE BACK TO DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZED THAT VIOLATIONS CONTINUE TO GO ON, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF INDIVIDUAL COMMANDERS WHO, HE SAID, HAVE THEIR OWN "PERSONAL" PRISONERS. RECENTLY, SAID CONSALVI, TWO VENEZUELAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STUDYING IN ARGENTINA WERE ARRESTED AND DISAPPEARED. AFTER INTENSE DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE, THEY WERE FOUND IN OBSCURE PRISONS AND ARE DUE TO BE RETURNED SOON TO VENEZUELA. THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM MAKE THEM SOUND LIKE DESPERATE SUBVERSIVES WHEN, IN FACT, ALL THEY DID WAS ATTEND POLITICAL MEETINGS. THIS DEMOSTRATES, SAID CONSALVI, THAT IN ARGENTINA THE REPRESSIVE FORCES ARE STILL

VERY STRONG.

7. BRAZIL- HE SAID VENEZUELA HAS VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL AND THAT WHEN HE HAD ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT PEREZ TO BRAZIL THEY HAD BOTH COME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THERE WAS VERY LARGE MIDDLE CLASS WHICH WAS BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT. CONSALVI SAID HE BELIEVES FIGUEREDO MAY WELL BE THE LAST MILITARY PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL.

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8. CENTRAL AMERICA - NICARAGUA IS THE KEY COUNTRY IN THAT AREA, SAID CONSALVI, AND THE GOV DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SOMOZA CAN STAY IN POWER LONG. THIS WAS THE DIFFERENCE, HE SAID, BETWEEN GOV AND USG BECAUSE USG HAS FAITH THAT SOMOZA WILL BE ABLE TO STAY IN POWER UNTIL 1981. SCHNEIDER AND LISTER RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT OUR POLICY WAS NOT PRO-SOMOZA BUT ADVOCATED ANON-VIOLENT PROCESS OF DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRATIC CHANGE BETWEEN THE GON AND THE OPPOSITION. THE GROUP OF 12, CONSALVI SAID, IS VERY POWERFUL. ONE OF THEM, HE SAID, WOULD BE ARRIVING IN ENEZUELA WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS. GUATEMALA IS BECOMING A SERIOUS PROBLEM, WITH MILITARY THERE TAKING AN INCREASINGLY HARD LINE. THIS COULD HAVE DANGEROUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR BELIZE. COSTA RICA, SAID CONSALVI, IS IN GOOD HANDS. GOV HAD RECENTLY APPOINTED GOOD FRIEND OF CARAZO AS AMBASSADOR THERE (GROOSCORS.) CARAZO, HE SAID WITH LAUGH, IS GOOD MAN DESPITE HIS LAST MINUTE DEVIATIONS TOWARD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY.

9. CUBA - CONSALVI ASKED WHAT USG WAS DOING ABOUT

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA AND WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER USG HAD
YET HEARD ABOUT CUBAN PLAN TO MAKE SOME KIND OF
DEAL IN WHICH CUBA WOULD SIP SOME 4,000 OF ITS POLITICAL
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PRISONERS TO US. CONSALVI SAID THAT DURING RECENT VISIT OF
THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL, THE
CUBANS HAD TOLD VENEZUELAS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE A DEAL WITH
USG IN WHICH THEY WOULD SEND 4,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS TO US.
CONSALVI DID NOT KNOW WHAT US WOULD HAVE TO DO IN RETURN,
BUT ASSUMED RELAXATION OF THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO WOULD BE
REQUESTED. HE POINTED OUT THAT VENEZUELA HAS BEEN ASKING
FOR SMALL GROUPS OF FORMER PRISONERS (HE SAID SOME 15 HAD
ARRIVED ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE) BUT WHAT CUBA HAD IN MIND WITH
THE US WAS REALLY BIG. FIDEL CLAIMS, SAID CONSALVI, TO
HAVE ONLY 5,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS. CUBAN OBJECTIVES IN
THIS SWAP, SAID CONSALVI, WOULD BE TO GET RID OF BULK
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WHICH ARE CAUSING PROBLEMS IN TERMS
OF LATIN AMERICAN AND WORLD OPINION. SCHNEIDER AND LISTER
EMPHASIZED THAT THE US HAD CONTINUED TO BE CONCERNED
ABOUT THE POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE AND HAD RAISED THIS
IN THE CONTEXT OF POST NORMALIZATION DISCUSSIONS. THEY
ALSO AGREED WITH CONSALVI THAT PERHAPS SEVERAL NATIONS
MIGHT JOIN IN RECEIVING ANY LARGE NUMBER OF RELEASED
PRISONERS. COMMENT: POLCOUNS WAS TOLD THE SAME POLITICAL
PRISONER EXCHANGE STORY ON AUGUST 16 BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF
VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO HAVANA CONGRESS WHO ASCRIBED THE
IDEA TO FIDEL CASTRO HIMSELF.

10. US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY - CONSALVI SAID HE APPROVED
OF POLICY WHOLEHEARTEDLY, BUT HE HAD ONE RESERVATION WITH
RESPECT TO SOVIET UNION. THE US, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT PERMIT
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WITH THE USSR TO IMPEDE SALT. THE
LATTER WAS TOO IMPORTANT FOR HUMANITY AND PRESSURE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMED TO MAKE THE SOVIETS TIGHTEN THEIR POSITIONS OF SA
LT.
HE HAD SAID THIS POINT EARLIER, HE SAID, DURING THE RECENT
HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR HELD IN CARACAS. SCHNEIDER EMPHASIZED THAT THE
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USG WOULD NOT LINK SALT NEGOTIATIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY
CONCERNS. HE NOTED THAT SINCE BOTH SIDES DESIRED TO
SEPARATE THESE ISSUES, THE DIFFICULTY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
RELATED MORE TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF ARMS CONTROL THAN TO
ANY SOVIET OR US LINKAGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ON THIS ISSUE.
CONSALVI WAS PLEASED AT GROWING SOVIET ISOLATION.

11. CONSALVI ENDED CONVERSATION BY SAYING HOW PLEASED
HE WAS SCHNEIDER HAD VISITED HIM BECAUSE BETWEEN US AND
VENEZUELA THERE WAS LARGE AREAS OF COINCIDENCE IN FOREIGN
POLICY AND SOME DISCREET (IN THE SENSE OF NOT EASILY SEEN
AREAS OF DIFFERENCE.
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